

REMARKS

Claims 157-222 are pending and have been newly added. The pending claims correspond to claims 2, 4, 6, 8-63, 65-71 as pending in the Amendment filed on July 14, 2003. No new matter has been presented.

Claims 80-156 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vriens and "other prior art references previously made of record." In view of the foregoing claim amendments, this rejection is moot.

Newly added claims 157-222 are allowable over the references of record for the following reasons.

Light having the wavelength range of 390 to 420 nm is very low in visibility (i.e. almost invisible to the human eye) compared with visible light of 420 nm or more. According to that which is claimed in claim 157, even though a semiconductor light-emitting element such as an LED deteriorates and decreases its brightness, the light emitted from the fluorescent substance, which is illuminated by the light of the semiconductor light-emitting element having wavelength of 390 to 420 nm, is hardly changed in the color tone, and is also superior to the visible light of 420 nm or more in color purity.

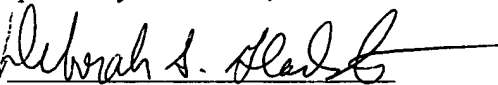
On the other hand, the cited reference PHOSPHOR HANDBOOK fails to disclose that the fluorescent substance described therein effectively emits light when the fluorescent substances are illuminated with light having a wavelength of 390-420 nm. While the PHOSPHOR HANDBOOK may disclose some of the fluorescent substances set forth in the present claims, even when an extra-high mercury lamp having the longest wave length is used, their excitation wavelength is 390 nm at the most. The PHOSPHOR HANDBOOK fails to disclose or suggest that desired light such as red, green, blue and so on is emitted when the fluorescent substances are illuminated with the light having a wavelength of 390-420 nm.

Vriens merely discloses that light having a wavelength of 930 nm or more is used in order to suppress deterioration of resin. Vriens fails to disclose that the fluorescent substances effectively emit light by illuminating the fluorescent substances with light having a wavelength of 390 nm or more. Vriens does not disclose the range of excitation wavelength limited by combination of the illuminating light and the fluorescent substances. Thus, a combination of Vriens and the PHOSPHOR HANDBOOK would not teach or suggest the invention of claim 157. The remaining claims are allowable for the same reasons claim 157 is allowable.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 204552021500.

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Respectfully submitted,

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